

an opportunity to participate and have their input. We are going regular order on most of the bills, but there are some that need attention immediately; and that is why we moved quickly in consultation and cooperation with the other side of the aisle. And we thought these were all bills that had everybody's consent because we even checked with the Senate, we checked with the administration, and we thought these bills could move quickly. Unfortunately, the Senate sees it differently.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. I would simply add again that as the gentleman indicated, trying to go regular order, obviously, both sides understand that these are things we need to move with great dispatch so we can help the people that need help and get it to them when they need the help. We are all for that.

On the supplemental, the President has indicated there is going to be a need for another supplemental. Do you know when we might consider such a supplemental; how much that supplemental might be for? And if we start considering it early, while the \$52 billion is still available to be expended to assist those, it will give us a little bit of time to go through the process that the gentleman indicates is the best process.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I do not know, other than in the press, and in many of these issues the press has gotten it wrong, that there has been any supplemental suggested by the President of the United States. He has not contacted my office. As far as I know, he has not contacted the Speaker's office, nor the chairman of the appropriations office about another supplemental. Quite the contrary. They are trying to avoid having another supplemental and trying to spend the money properly and get it to the people that need it. So I am not aware of any supplemental certainly in the short term.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

Now, there is some speculation about an energy bill being considered. Obviously, gasoline prices are extraordinarily high. The American public is very concerned about their energy costs, about the policies of this country. Do you anticipate an energy bill coming to the floor any time within the next 2 weeks or 3 weeks?

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the question, because Members need to be aware that the Committee on Energy and Commerce is working on a fuel bill to try to address the concerns, particularly of supply and the lack of refining in this country.

The gentleman knows that there were a lot of issues that were dropped out of the energy bill that was signed by the President about a month ago that would be having an effect right now. We are going to revisit those issues.

There are other issues that have come to mind. People are starting to understand that as the cold weather starts closing in on us that the cost of fuel oil is going to be astronomical, that the increase in electricity costs are going to be astronomical. The cost of natural gas is going up, and we all understand that supply is the real problem; and we are going to try to address that and hopefully address it as soon as we can, do it in regular order, and bring it to the floor for consideration of this House.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. Do you have any idea what "as soon as possible" is, the time frame? Next 3 weeks, next month, late October, November? Do you have any idea on that?

Mr. DELAY. There is really no way of knowing. It is really up to the committee and how fast they can do their work. I might say that the chairman of the committee's wife is having a baby today so that has created a problem. Not for him, but for our schedule. So they are working as hard and as fast as they can, and it is incredibly important for us to deal with this issue as soon as possible.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, and I agree with you that is not a problem. Please convey the Democratic congratulations to the chairman and more importantly his wife, the mother.

Two last bills I will ask you about, Mr. Leader, and I appreciate the time we are taking on this. Reconciliation: There was a discussion about putting off reconciliation. We have put off reconciliation at least until the end of the month, as I understand it probably until October. Can you tell me whether or not we still anticipate reconciliation moving forward and, if so, are there going to be two bills? One the \$35 billion in mandatory spending cuts among which is \$10 billion in Medicaid cuts, and/or the \$70 billion in tax cuts that was included in the budget reconciliation instructions.

Mr. DELAY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding and for the question. The gentleman probably knows that I think today the Committee on the Budget has sent a notice to the House that they have postponed the process until the end of October because of what is facing us now. We thought it would be better to do that, and the Committee on the Budget agreed. And so this process will not even be started until the middle of October.

As the gentleman also knows, the budget that was passed by the House allows for two bills, one an entitlement reform bill and another a tax bill. We anticipate taking advantage of both and trying to reform entitlement spending so that real money is getting to real people that need it. And we also anticipate some sort of tax bill because we feel like, particularly under the present circumstances, to continue this good economy that we have got, we hope to enhance it even more.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, the last bill I would ask you about is

the subject matter that has been one of the biggest subjects that we have been considering this year. The President put it on the agenda, the Social Security privatization, private accounts act. Can you tell me whether or not we anticipate a Social Security bill coming to create private accounts or privatize in some way Social Security coming to the floor this year.

Mr. DELAY. The Committee on Ways and Means remains focused on developing a comprehensive retirement security package. And I still hope that the House will be able to consider legislation in this area before we end this session. That is about as much as I am informed as to where the bill is, what is in it, and when it will come.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. Let me say on behalf of the minority, the Democrat side of the aisle shares your concern and commitment to assuring retirement security for our people. As you know, we strongly disagree with the suggestion that has been made by the administration with reference to the creation of private accounts and what we perceive as privatizing parts of Social Security. But I want you to be assured that we share your view that we want to make sure that retirement accounts are secure and that Americans have opportunities to participate in the creation of retirement accounts. I thank the gentleman for his observation.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2005, AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 445) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.